

FISH and WILDLIFE COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVER SHEET

Meeting Date: November

Agenda Item: Develop no-cost Lease Agreement with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for Murray Springs Fish Hatchery

Division: Fisheries

Action Needed: Endorsement

Time Needed on Agenda for this Presentation: 10 minutes

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Background:

Murray Springs Fish Hatchery, near Eureka, MT, was built and is operated as mitigation for Libby Dam, and is owned and operationally funded 100% by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps has approached FWP requesting that we enter into a no-cost lease agreement for the land and facility. The Corps would continue to own and fund operations and maintenance at the facility.

Public Involvement Process & Results:

No public involvement has been solicited to date. FWP will determine what, if any, public involvement is needed and conduct a process to seek any found necessary.

Alternatives and Analysis:

The only alternative at this time would be to work on an agreement with the USACOE and potentially jeopardize our collaboration with the Corps, potentially ending mitigation fish production at the hatchery, jeopardizing 3 full time FWP staff positions there and causing the Corps to be non-compliant with their mitigation commitments.

Agency Recommendation & Rationale:

Recommend that FWP pursue the no-cost lease agreement with the Army Corps of Engineers for Murray Springs Hatchery.

Proposed Motion:

I move to endorse FWP to pursue a potential no-cost agreement with the US Army Corps of Engineers for the lease and operational funding of Murray Springs Fish Hatchery.